

# Prairie Update

VOLUME 17

SUMMER 2003

## Hello Voluntary Stewards!

Now that it's summer, our field staff are in high gear. Getting the job done requires a lot of long days and a lot of driving. But without their hard work, we wouldn't be able to bring you stories like the ones you'll read about in this newsletter.

In this issue, we are featuring articles that highlight the economic benefits of native prairie – in both summer and winter. In our first story, Paul Fradette tells us how improved management of his native prairie extended his grazing season and reduced his feeding costs during the winter. In a related story, range agrologist Ross Macdonald tells us why carry-over is so important in maintaining pasture productivity during drought.

In our third feature, Dwayne Fettes explains how a stewardship project provides benefits for his family operation and a threatened species – the Loggerhead Shrike. Sharing his experiences from the drought of the 80s, Dwayne also relates the economic importance of native prairie in a livestock operation.

If you like these stories, then you may also be interested in our fall issue where we plan to include articles that discuss the economic and environmental benefits of riparian (streambank) management. Be sure to watch for it.

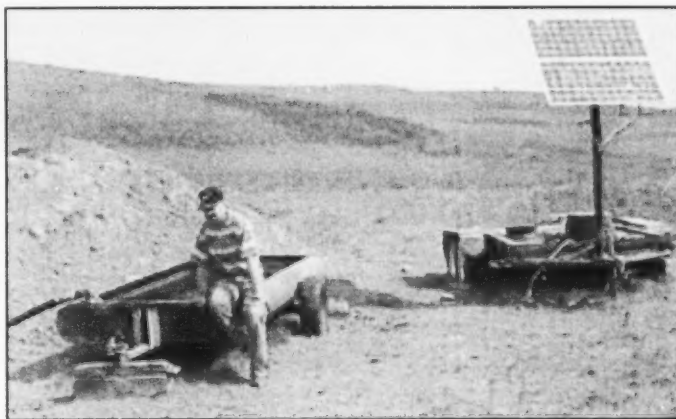
Please look inside for information regarding some of our new publications that you may be interested in receiving.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for articles you would like to see, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

Tracy Harrison  
and Jennifer Lohmeyer

## Grazing Management Plan Shortens Winter Feeding Season

By Tracy Harrison



*Paul Fradette is using a mobile trough system to improve management of his native prairie.*

Through improvements to his grazing management plan, Paul Fradette of Radville, Sask. is providing his cattle with a nutritious source of feed long after the growing season has ended.

And that's something he truly appreciates - especially when he doesn't have to start his tractor to serve a buffet of baled forages.

Fradette said, *"I think the big thing for myself is delayed grazing. What I'm trying to do is shorten up my feeding season in the winter time. And this whole project has kind of helped me do that."*

With assistance from Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Fradette has solved animal distribution problems and optimized production of his native prairie pastures. By cross fencing and developing remote watering sites, he has been able to extend his grazing season and enjoy the benefits of native prairie.

*"A lot of other grasses are just limited for summer time use. The native species are more versatile,"* he said, noting they retain their nutritional qualities well into the dormant season.

And for most producers - that season usually involves more labor and inputs.

Fradette said, *"This year, I gained a month-and-a-half because I didn't have to start feeding my cows until January 15<sup>th</sup>. I don't know if I'll be able*

*to do that every year depending on the weather and other conditions - but that was a big plus for me."*

*"And the grass is still out there - I just moved the cows home because it got a little too cold. If I move my calving date back from March to May, my cows' maintenance needs go down and I could probably keep them out even longer," said Fradette.*

Fradette's new management plan is one that he shares with a fourth generation of prairie stewards. Along with his wife Shannon and sons Lance, 15, Garrett, 14 and Brandt, 11, he lives on a farm that belonged to his grandfather.

*"I was born and raised here. It's always been a mixed farm but since I've taken over a lot has been seeded back to grass," said Fradette.*

In the past, one-third of the land base was cultivated. Now, 2,000 acres of native prairie is complemented by 600 acres of tame forages and 400 acres of cropland, used for growing a rotation of organic wheat, flax, peas, oats and clover.

*"It kind of helps feed the cows in winter and I get some straw off of there," said Fradette, noting the introduction of Red Angus and Beef Booster cattle is yet another change he made on this family farm. Replacing his father's herd of Hereford-Charolais crossed bloodlines, he has 135 cows and heifers and wintered 110 calves.*

To provide early season grazing for his animals, he seeded alfalfa and crested wheat grass before switching to meadow brome. *"The crested wheat is a good early season grass - but it's hard to get rid of," said Fradette of this invasive threat to native prairie.*

*"If I can, I'm going to try to use a native type of forage mixture on some of my hillier pastures. If those acres aren't going to be used for making hay - I've got extra options for a winter grazing."*

Realizing that bigger isn't always better,

Fradette also subdivided existing native pastures through his stewardship project. Now, fields that previously ranged from 160 to 480 acres range from 80 to 160 acres in size. After seeing the benefits of "holding the cattle back just a little bit," he hopes to create more paddocks and move his cattle on a weekly basis.

*"In December, I still had five quarters of native grass that hadn't been touched yet," he said, adding that earlier use of this grass will provide his other fields with valuable rest. "Everything might get a good grazing - but it will be a year before the cows come back to it."*

To provide water, the project also included the development of eight watering sites, including several dugouts and three springs. Fradette currently uses a solar-powered pump and mobile trough, but looks forward to the day he can leave the trough home. In its place, he wants to create more permanent structures by using tires acquired from the Coronach coal mine.

*"It has to be handy otherwise you're not going to use it," he said, noting the cattle seem to enjoy their "new found" convenience as well.*

*"Now, they can drink and then go right away. They're not spending as much time down there. That seems to make a big difference," he said. In the past, small watering holes and sloughs would "get muddled right up," especially if the cattle waded deeper in search of cooler water.*

*"I don't think you even have to worry about fencing out any of these watering holes. I will if I have to - but if you have fresh water, they'd just as soon drink out of a trough than go down and sink their front feet into a bunch of water."*

For added peace of mind, however, Fradette



**Watering site development.**

did put extra effort into protecting a spring on land he purchased. Since the spring was pushed in, he cleaned it out and created another watering hole beside it. *"If the solar pump quits, they can go down and get a drink without getting into the spring itself," he explained.*

As for getting into this project, Fradette admits that he was *"probably one of the more reluctant guys to get involved"* in a conservation program.

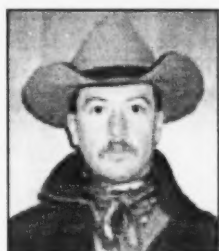
*"I always thought you might be losing certain things. But these contracts are getting easier all the time. For me it's been a win-win situation and a good experience so far," he said.*

*"Usually what they want and what you want are pretty much the same things anyway, so if they're going to help you out with it - it helps you both out in the long run. I've been wanting to do this project for awhile now, and they helped to finance it and make it affordable."*

*Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority would like to acknowledge the following project sponsors: Agriculture Environment Stewardship Initiative (AESI) administered through the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan (CARDS), the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and SaskPower.*

# Maintaining Pasture Productivity During Drought

By Tracy Harrison



**Ross Macdonald**

Ross Macdonald, a range agrologist with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Ducks Unlimited Canada in Weyburn, said producers can minimize evaporative moisture losses to keep their pastures more productive.

During a series of spring "Livestock Watering Workshops" held in conjunction with Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization; Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Saskatchewan; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Sask Power, Macdonald stressed the importance of "buffering climatic change."

To develop a range management plan, Macdonald said, *"The first question you have to ask yourself to understand the importance of water in this country is 'Where are we?' We're in a semiarid region and precipitation is limited. When we look at the big scale of things, how does that precipitation get here and what does it do once it falls from the sky?"*

In the Missouri Coteau region, which angles across southern Saskatchewan, precipitation ranges from 10 to 14 inches annually. While less than one per cent goes into groundwater recharge, Macdonald said only four per cent becomes runoff. Ninety-six per cent returns to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration (evaporation through plants).

Macdonald said retaining that moisture and improving grass management means

Understanding the prairie water cycle and knowing how to apply that knowledge is the key to drought proofing pastures.

producers need to get down on the ground and "take a closer look at what's there." While the emergence of green growth may catch the eye first - the presence of "carry over" from the previous season is needed for pasture stability.

*"A lot of guys might say that's wasted grass,"* said Macdonald, noting carry over is important during times of variable precipitation.

*"First of all, that physical barrier of litter being there slows the runoff off your pastures,"* he said, noting moisture retention is especially important on "moisture limiting hillsides."

*"Secondly, when the sun is beating down in the middle of July and August, that leaf litter is providing insulation for the soil down there."*

Noting the "amazing" difference felt, even by hand, of the ground temperature and moisture beneath clipped and unclipped grass, Macdonald said, *"We measured it last year and found a temperature difference of 10 degrees Celsius. The key here is leaf matter. Studies have shown that native grass leaf matter actually acts like a sponge and retains that water at the site."*

To achieve optimum litter cover and prevent overgrazing, he said producers need to be aware of any livestock distribution problems. In some cases, the development of remote watering sites may help by allowing for a greater movement of animals within a pasture system.

Spin-off benefits from these changes include an extended grazing season, reduced feed expenses in fall and healthier animals because of improved water quality.

Emphasizing that range

management and water management go hand in hand, Macdonald added that livestock in a British Columbia study gained up to half a pound more per day when their water was pumped to a trough.

Noting that cattle often have direct access to water sources such as dugouts, Macdonald said helpful "improvements" may be as simple as developing one watering point, such as a graveled ramp. This will allow banks to revegetate and in turn, filter contaminants from runoff and provide cool shade for surface water.

*"We're protecting our capital investments out there on the range,"* summarized Macdonald. *"Sometimes it's hard with cash flow - but maybe with a little bit of planning we can maintain those investments for a longer term as well as improving the health of our cattle."*

And the health of a shared environment.

*"We want the guys driving by on the highway to be able to say, 'Look at those guys out there with the healthy wetlands and healthy streambanks and the happy cows - they're doing a great job,'"* he said.



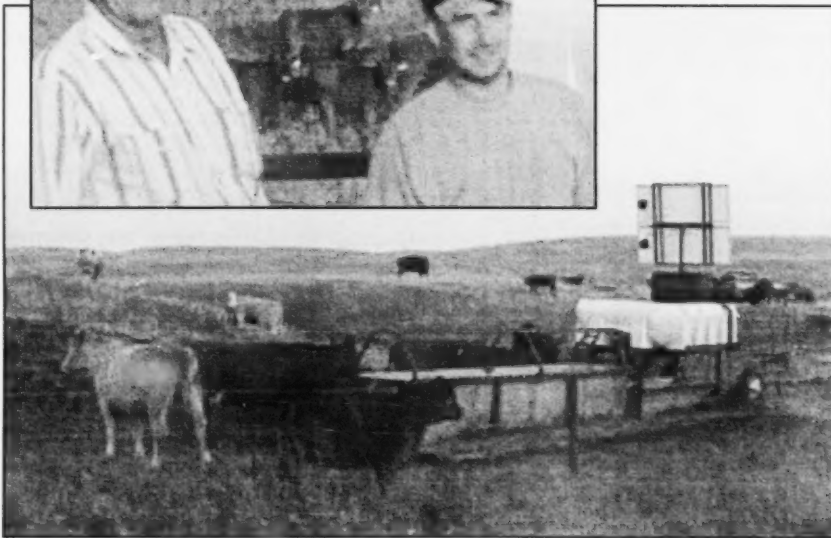
**The condition of native pastures can be improved by using tame forages for early spring grazing.**

## Stewardship Project Benefits a Threatened Species

By Tracy Harrison



*Inset: Dwayne and Scott Fettes*



For most landowners, a day of fencing usually includes a variety of "natural encounters" such as a field mouse scurrying for cover, a small bird sounding a few trill notes from a nearby post or a barrage of grasshoppers, breaking the waves of a parting sea of grass.

But for Gladmar, Sask. livestock producer Dwayne Fettes and his son Scott, the task of stretching wires and pounding staples has come to include an appreciation for a rather "unpleasant find." And that's the buffet of small mammals, birds, insects and amphibians that a Loggerhead Shrike has left impaled upon the barbs of a fence line.

Fettes said, "There was an old grove of trees on the adjacent quarter that Scott also owns - and I guess we got talking to Ross Macdonald about how we had just been fencing - and we saw all kinds of

*things hanging on the barbed wire fence nearby."*

Macdonald, a rangeland agrologist for the former Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation, now part of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in Weyburn, told them that these "hanging or butcher birds" are listed as a threatened species.

The Loggerhead Shrike, a songbird which prefers to nest in trees and thorny species of shrubs, is smaller than a robin but hunts like a small hawk. Gray and white in color, it has a black mask and contrasting black and white markings on its wings and tail. This bird hangs its prey on barbs firstly, because it lacks the strong feet of a hawk and can't otherwise eat the food; and secondly to cache the food for later use.

To conserve its habitat and enhance their

operation, "DKF Red Angus," Macdonald encouraged the Fettes' to sign up with the "Loggerhead Shrike - Burrowing Owl Habitat Enhancement Program," offered jointly with Nature Saskatchewan and sponsored by The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. Through this project, they could apply for funding to seed grass and develop a remote watering site.

For the Loggerhead Shrikes, benefits would come in the form of protection for the grove of trees and healthy habitat for the bird's prey in grassland, wetland and riparian areas.

For the Fettes family, and especially Scott who is the fifth generation farming in the Gladmar area - the project would complement management practices, resources and goals currently being shared. These include deferred grazing of native prairie pastures, herd expansion and the provision of cleaner water for livestock.

Fettes said the goal of improving water became an immediate reality when a portable watering station was set up in 2002.

*"We were really excited about getting it. We were having trouble with cattle going into dugouts and getting stuck in the mud because the water levels were low. With this, they always have a nice clean environment to come to and drink,"* said Fettes, noting the cattle favored the station, which included a platform for them to stand on.

*"When the cattle came up, not a cow went into the dugout. They all went to the water station to drink,"* he said.

The 1600 gallon water station, which includes a holding tank and trough system, is solar powered. Water from a dugout or spring is pumped to the tank and then gravity fed down to the troughs, which have a capacity of 800 gallons for the cows



and 400 gallons for the calves. Another 400 gallons is reserved in the tank. When a float in the tank indicates water levels have dropped to the 200 gallon mark, the pump is activated.

Pleased that the system accommodates younger animals, Fettes said, *"With some troughs, calves may not reach the water left after the cows have finished drinking. Here the calves always came and had a place to drink where the cows couldn't get to."*

To complete the second phase of this stewardship project, 141 acres of his son's land was seeded to a grazing mixture in the spring of 2003.

Management of this quarter, which includes a creek that flows during runoff and several springs, will be modeled after existing pastures. After a perimeter fence has been built, an electric fence will be used to divide the quarter into a series of paddocks while an alley will provide access to the watering site.

Based on past experience, Fettes expects this to work well. In the early 1990s, he seeded 200 acres of tame forages through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration's permanent cover program. Since it has been divided into 30-acre paddocks, cattle have usually been able to graze it from May 1 to July 1, before moving on to native pasture.

*"It's just tremendous - the amount of grazing that we get out of it just by utilizing that way,"* said Fettes. *"I learned a long time ago, the longer you can stay off your native grass the better. It's perfect if you can stay off until the first of August. And if you can leave half of the vegetation that was there from the year - it will always 'be there' for you."*

*"When we went through the drought in the 80s, we had to ship our cows to pasture in Choiceland, Sask. - because I was getting past my half. Half of my vegetation was gone because the cows and grasshoppers were*

*eating it pretty hard."*

When conditions improved, Fettes reduced the size of the herd, switched to purebreds, implemented a rotational grazing system and took stock of what worked and what didn't. *"You can tell the difference between the pastures that had been grazed real hard and stressed - and the ones we were able to get our cows off of. When the moisture started coming, those pastures produced a lot more."*

Noting there is truth to the old saying *"if you don't grow any grass you can't make any money,"* Fettes concluded that his family appreciates the support of stewardship programs and technical assistance offered by individuals such as Macdonald.

*"It definitely helps because they've got the expertise with the type of grass you should be seeding and different kinds of ideas about using the water. Improving the use of the water is a 'big one' for the environment and the livestock."*

### **Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**

#### ***Present Status***

This species of shrike is listed as "threatened" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Populations appear to be stable in Saskatchewan over the past 20 years after experiencing significant declines in the 1970s. According to the Atlas of Saskatchewan Birds, the highest breeding densities in Saskatchewan occur south and west of Saskatoon to the U.S. border.



This shrike can be found wintering in the lower half of the U.S. and south into Mexico.

#### ***Habitat Preference***

Loggerhead Shrikes usually prefer pastures and fields with intermediate amounts of cover (not too dense, not too sparse). They place their open-cup nest in trees, shelterbelts and thorny species of shrubs.

#### ***Did You Know?***

During courtship, Loggerhead Shrikes occasionally break into a bubbly musical "song." Both females and males sing. Their alarm call is a high pitched shrieking - hence their name shrike.

This songbird, which has a hooked bill, is often referred to as the "butcher bird." To find out why, please refer to the accompanying article *"Stewardship Project Benefits a Threatened Species."*





**GRASSLAND GATHERING** - A tour of the Big Muddy Badlands rounded out the celebration of Saskatchewan's fourth annual "Native Prairie Appreciation Week" in June. More than 100 people including landowners, conservationists and range management specialists participated in the event, which also included a workshop and tour stops in the Rockglen and Wood Mountain areas.

Left, participants got on their hands and knees for a friendly native plant identification contest at the Michael Burgess ranch near Big Beaver. The tour was organized by the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan and its Partners.

## Conservation Program Directory Now Available

By Tracy Harrison

Information about conservation programs in Saskatchewan is now available through a directory of government and non-profit organizations.

Funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, through the Volunteer Sector Initiative (VSI), this directory was compiled by former VSI Project Coordinator with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Cari-Lyn Epp.

Epp said the directory is especially helpful for landowners, who may not be aware of all the programs and assistance offered by various agencies.

"It just lets people know what's out there," she said, adding the directory will help eliminate some of the confusion about "who is doing what."

"People can find out if there's any funding available through these programs, if they're eligible, new

deadlines they have to get their applications in for - and how to contact the agencies responsible for these programs," said Epp.

While print copies of the directory are available through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's Regina office, or in PDF format on the website [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca) or [www.wetland.sk.ca](http://www.wetland.sk.ca), Epp said more current information will be available in an "online searchable form" through the Saskatchewan Network of Watershed Stewards (SNOWS) website at [www.snows.sk.ca](http://www.snows.sk.ca).

"I have a feeling this website will be the best vehicle," said Epp, noting that agencies will be able to access the website for the purpose of updating their own program information.

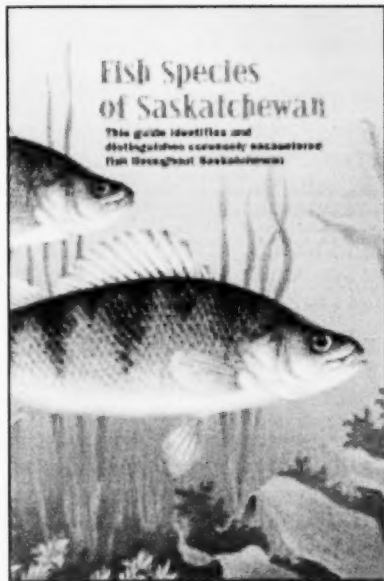
For more information, contact Heather Seitz at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in Regina at (306) 787 - 1319.



### Green Needle Grass (*Stipa viridula*)

is a perennial bunch grass. It has an extensive and dense root system that can be 2-3 meters in length. This large root system allows it to inhabit almost any soil type, but it prefers heavy clay, moist, and fertile soils. Green needle grass was one of the most common grasses on the heavy clay soils of the Regina Plain.

## New Publications Available



### New Publication Identifies Fish Species of Saskatchewan

Just in time for summer - the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is pleased to announce the release of a new publication that will interest all fish enthusiasts, ranging from anglers to school children.

The booklet, titled "*Fish Species of Saskatchewan*," was published with funds generated from the sale of angling licenses made available through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund.

While the guide's focus is primarily on the sportfish of Saskatchewan, it also includes information about several rough-fish species as well.

Descriptions provide information regarding the appearance of particular fish as well as habitat preferences and spawning and feeding behaviours. Species range maps have also been included.

For those fish that are just too hard to tell apart - the guide also includes a key. Comprised of a diagram that looks much

like a family tree, this key is located in a special foldout section at the back of the booklet.

Fish can be identified by working through a step-by-step process that takes into account the lack of or presence of certain characteristics. Examples include teeth, barbels, scales and shape of the tail etc.

*For more information contact the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in Regina at (306) 787 - 0726.*

### Birding Trail Guide Promotes EcoTourism in Saskatchewan

For Saskatchewan residents, the fall migration of waterfowl and the spring rush of songbirds and shorebirds is a thing to behold.

But for others - it's a sight to envy.

To share their natural treasures, several prairie communities have created links to assist birdwatchers from across North America and around the world.

A Birding Trail Guide that includes a map and general description of 23 birding sites in the province has just been produced through the joint effort of the Chaplin Tourism Committee and the Quill Lakes Tourism Committee, and their partners.

Chaplin Lake and Quill Lakes are the two anchor bird watching sites in the province - conveniently located on Saskatchewan's two major highways, the Trans-Canada #1 and the Yellowhead #16.

While these two areas have gained worldwide recognition as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites - they provide visitors with a starting point to the province's wealth of birdwatching opportunities.

According to the guide, some of the

birding sites offer visitors a chance to see endangered species such as Piping Plovers, Sage Grouse, Burrowing Owls and even the Whooping Crane as it makes a prairie stop over during its spring and fall migrations.

Saskatchewan is comprised of four distinct eco-zones, from rolling prairie to dense forest. Micro-environments are as varied as bird-life, ranging from active sand dunes and badlands to marshes and swamps. Over 350 bird species can be found in the province.

Southwestern Saskatchewan represents the core of the range of grassland birds like Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit. The mixed wood boreal forest in northern Saskatchewan supports some of the highest bird species diversity in North America including Connecticut Warbler and Boreal Chickadee. More than 15 species of shorebirds nest in the province while others stop over briefly en-route to their breeding grounds in Arctic Canada.

*For more information about birdwatching in Saskatchewan email Ken Kessler at [saskbirding@yahoo.ca](mailto:saskbirding@yahoo.ca) or Tourism Saskatchewan at 1-877-2ESCAPE.*



## Coming Events

### July 22, 2003

Forage Tour  
Kindersley, Sask.  
Topics:

- Annual Forages
- Grass Rejuvenation with Fertilizer and
- Manure
- Livestock Watering
- Native Grass Identification
- Range Condition Assessment

The cost is \$5 and includes lunch and transportation. To register call the Kindersley Rural Service Centre at 463-5446.

### July Date TBA

Grazing Management Workshop  
Rosthern, Sask.

For more information call Shelanne Wiles at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority at 787-0918.

### July 24 - Tentative

Livestock Watering and Grazing Management Workshop  
Spring Valley, Sask.

For more information call Ross Macdonald at 861-9893.

### July 29, 2003

Forage Field Day  
Redvers, Sask.

For more information call Etienne Soulodre at 787-0661.

### August Date TBA

Grazing Management Workshop  
Biggar, Sask.

For more information call Shelanne Wiles at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority at 787-0918.

### August - Tentative - Date TBA

Field Day  
Moosomin, Sask.

For more information call Etienne Soulodre at 787-0661.

### August 6, 2003

Livestock Watering and Grazing Management Field Day  
Kipling, Sask.

For more information call Etienne Soulodre at 787-0661.

### Thursday, August 7, 2003

Water, Grazing & Endangered Species Field Day  
Meet at Val Marie Rink

9:30 AM - 4:00PM

The field day will include tours of local operations that have been involved in the following projects meant to demonstrate practices that enhance water quality and wildlife habitat:

- shallow water pipeline for livestock
- corral relocation off the Frenchman River
- sage grouse habitat enhancement
- tame forage establishment

Cost: \$10 per person (includes transportation, drinks and bag lunch). Register by calling the Shaunavon Rural Service Centre at 297-5450. Registration deadline: August 5.

### August 12, 2003

Water, Grazing & Endangered Species Field Day

Meet at Climax Community Hall

9:30 AM - 4:00PM

The field day will include tours of local operations that have been involved in the following projects meant to demonstrate practices that enhance water quality and wildlife habitat:

- livestock water development off the Frenchman River
- sage grouse habitat enhancement
- tame forage establishment

Cost: \$10 per person (includes transportation, drinks and bag lunch). Register by calling the Shaunavon Rural Service Centre at 297-5450. Registration deadline: August 8.

### August 14, 2003

Water, Grazing & Endangered Species Field Day  
Meet at Eastend Memorial Hall

9:30 AM - 4:00PM

The field day will include tours of local operations that have been involved in the following projects meant to demonstrate practices that enhance water quality and wildlife habitat:

- livestock water development off the Frenchman River
- sage grouse habitat enhancement
- creek diversion around feedlot
- corral relocation

Cost: \$10 per person (includes transportation, drinks and bag lunch). Register by calling the Shaunavon Rural Service Centre at 297-5450. Registration deadline: August 11.

### August 13-16, 2003

Canadian Cattlemen Association Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention  
Moose Jaw, Sask.

For more information contact Carrie Kimmel at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Office at 757-8523 or email [ssga@sasktel.net](mailto:ssga@sasktel.net).

### September 16-18, 2003

Native Plant Summit VII. Planning Native Landscapes - Urban and Rural  
Fargo, North Dakota

For more information visit the website: [www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ngpsm](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ngpsm).

### October 19-23, 2003

5<sup>th</sup> International FUTURE OF RURAL PEOPLES Rural Economy, Healthy People, Environment, Rural Communities Symposium  
Saskatoon, Sask.

This conference will be goal orientated with recommendations for science and policy. For more information visit the website: [www.iarch.usask.ca](http://www.iarch.usask.ca).

### December 3-5, 2003

Interprovincial Grazing Conference  
Saskatoon, Sask.

For more information contact Carrie Kimmel at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Office at 757-8523 or email [ssga@sasktel.net](mailto:ssga@sasktel.net).

### February 26-29, 2004

7<sup>th</sup> Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference  
Calgary, Alberta

For more information call the Prairie Conservation Action Plan office in Regina at 352-0472 or visit the website: [www.pcsc.ca](http://www.pcsc.ca).

## Share Your Ideas . . .

Anyone with story ideas or coming events is welcome to share them with us at:

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**Saskatchewan  
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- California Waterfowl Association
- Canada Millennium Partnership Program
- Canadian Wildlife Service and World Wildlife Fund (Endangered Species Recovery Fund)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environment Canada through Eco-ACTION
- Government of Canada Habitat
- Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (U.S.)
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Saskatchewan
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
- Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Pheasants Forever, Inc., (U.S.)
- Prairie Conservation Action Plan
- Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and Rural Revitalization
- Saskatchewan Energy
- Saskatchewan Environment through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
- SaskPower-Shand Greenhouse
- Sask Water
- TD - Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
- The Nature Conservancy (U.S.)
- Wildlife Habitat Canada
- World Wildlife Fund
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department